

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected. Claims 9-15 are hereby newly added. Exemplary support for claims 9-15 can be found throughout the Applicant's Specification.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamano (US 2002/0067925, hereinafter "Yamano"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 which recites in part:

A printer having a function to control quality of an output image, comprising:

...

inputting means for inputting evaluation results of the visual evaluation of said second test pattern for the visual evaluation;
storage means for storing said image quality data obtained through...said evaluation results of said visual evaluation; and
display means for displaying...said evaluation results of the visual evaluation and history thereof.

The Examiner contends that Yamano teaches each feature of independent claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yamano does not anticipate claim 1 for at least the following reasons. Claim 1 describes inputting means for inputting evaluation of the visual evaluation of said second test pattern for the visual evaluation. According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, "[t]he input means 20 is used to manually input the results of visual evaluation by a human on the test pattern for visual evaluation 12." Applicant's Specification, para. 53. Furthermore, claim 1 discloses storage means for storing...said evaluations results of said visual evaluation and display means for displaying...said evaluation results of the visual evaluations

and history thereof. According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the “results of visual evaluation and the measurement values input from input means 20 are stored into the memory 22. The memory 22...stores as quality control data...the image quality inspection results obtained through visual evaluation.” Applicant’s Specification, para. 55-56. Then, “[t]he display 26 displays the quality control or the history of quality control data stored in the memory 22.” Applicant’s Specification, para. 57.

Yamano, on the other hand discloses that in response to a test-pattern’s evaluations results, a “user or a service engineer changes recording conditions manually, or controlled device 103 changes recording conditions automatically.” *See* para. 212. Even, if such a change of recording conditions is considered an inputting of evaluations results, all the features of the present invention are not disclosed by Yamano as the history of these results is not displayed by “display means for displaying...said evaluation results of the visual evaluations and history thereof.” Instead, all that is displayed are the altered results due to the change in the recording conditions and “the printing conditions set by the printing-condition setting section.”(Yamano, para. 15) Furthermore, while Yamano discloses “[test] pattern setting means...to establish the number of test patterns to be recorded” and the fact that for the plurality of these test patterns “information is recorded for each test pattern.” (Yamano, para. 15), it does not disclose that once a user “changes recording conditions manually,” such changes are displayed. Rather, as discussed above, the different results due to that change in recording conditions are what is recorded and thus can be displayed. Essentially, Yamano discloses a means to record and display various test-patterns, rather than history of the visual evaluation results being stored in a memory and then displayed.

For further illustration, while Yamano discloses visual evaluation, it merely describes that in “a sharpness-evaluation in which the density is set at the profiling-axis, when lightness is set at the profiling-axis, it becomes possible to obtain an evaluation result more equivalent to the visual inspection of human eyes, compared to those in case of setting the density at the profiling-axis.” *See* para. 223. Accordingly, Yamano does not disclose outputting a second test pattern for visual evaluation; inputting the evaluation results of the visual evaluation of said second test pattern for the visual evaluation which was output using the inputting means; storing said evaluation results of the visual evaluation which were input into the storage means; and displaying said evaluation results of the visual evaluation which were stored and history thereof onto the display means, as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, Yamano does not disclose further outputting first test pattern for automatic measurement of image quality together with said second test pattern for visual evaluation; storing determination results of determining image quality data obtained through automatic measurement of said first test pattern for automatic measurement of image quality by the automatic measuring means in the determining means together with said evaluation results of visual evaluation which were input; nor displaying said determination results and said evaluation results of the visual evaluation which were stored, and history thereof, as in the claimed invention.

That is to say, Yamano does not disclose inputting evaluation results of visual evaluation of the second test pattern for visual evaluation using the inputting means; storing said evaluation results of visual evaluation, image quality data obtained through automatic measurement of the first test pattern for automatic measurement of image quality by the automatic measuring means,

and determination results of said image quality data, and the history thereof in the storing means; nor displaying said image quality data, said determination results, said evaluation results of visual evaluation and said history thereof on the display means.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that since all the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed by Yamano, claim 1 is not anticipated. Accordingly, the remaining elected claims 2-5 and newly added claims 9-15 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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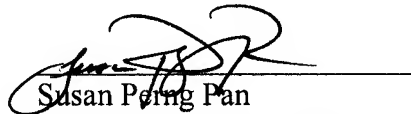
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